What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for preparing a sustained release formulation containing ribavirin, the method comprising:

mixing ribavirin with at least one excipient to form a mixture;

forming pellets of the mixture; and

coating the pellets with a material that reduces the dissolution rate of the ribavirin in an aqueous environment.

2. The process of claim 1, comprising forming pellets having a distribution wherein at least 98% of the pellets are less than about 1200 microns and 92% of the pellets greater than about 250 microns.

3. The method of claim 1, comprising mixing a fat with ribavirin.

4. The method of claim 1, comprising forming a sustained release capsule or tablet from the pellets.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the forming step is accomplished by spheronization.

6. A method for preparing a sustained release formulation containing ribavirin, the method comprising:

mixing ribavirin with at least one excipient to form a mixture;

forming a tablet of the mixture; and

coating the tablet with a material that reduces the dissolution rate of the ribavirin in the tablet when the tablet is in an aqueous environment.

7. A sustained release capsule or tablet comprising a ribavirin composition.

8. The sustained release capsule or tablet of claim 7 wherein the ribavirin composition comprises at least one filler, at least one disintegrant, and at least one binder.

9. A process of forming flowable ribavirin particles, the process comprising:
mixing ribavirin with at least one excipient to form a mixture;
adding water to the mixture;
forming the wet mixture into ribavirin containing particles; and
drying the particles to form free flowing ribavirin containing particles.

10. The process according to claim 9, wherein the water is added at a rate of about 2 kg per minute to about 50 kg per minute.

11. The process according to claim 9, wherein said drying step comprises heating the particles to a temperature ranging from about 35 °C to about 45 °C, until the particles contain a moisture content ranging from 0.5% to 5.0%.

12. The process according to claim 9 further comprising filling a plurality capsules with the free flowing ribavirin containing particles wherein the plurality of capsules have a weight variability of within +/- 8% and a ribavirin content of between about 90% and 110%, with a standard deviation of less than about 4%.

13. The process of claim 9, wherein the forming step is accomplished by spheronization.

14. A free flowing ribavirin composition.

15. The composition of claim 14 wherein the composition has an angle of repose of no higher than about 35 degrees.

16. The composition of claim 14 further comprising a disintegrant, filler and binder.

17. The composition of claim 14 further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable form of: microcrystalline cellulose, lactose, croscarmellose, and povidone.

18. The composition of claim 14 comprising uniformly sized particles.

19. The composition of claim 18 wherein the particles have a distribution wherein at least 98% of the particles are less than about 1200 microns and 92% of the particles are greater than 250 microns.

20. A method of treating a subject by administering to the subject a sustained release dosage of ribavirin.